



HELPING SOMEONE LEARN TO DRIVE

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If you are trying to teach someone else how to drive, the most important thing you can do is to **drive safely yourself**. Though it sounds trite, it is true. Your friend or family member is now watching more carefully than you can ever dream. How do we know? Examiners quite often hear, “Well, that’s how my dad does it.” Sometimes the young driver is saying this to defend such things as “rolling stops.” Luckily, it is also often said with pride, when the applicant is giving a parent credit for their safe driving habits.

A second helpful thing you can do is to **talk out loud while you are driving**. Rather than overload the new driver with information and advice while he or she is also trying to simply learn the mechanics of driving, take advantage of teaching opportunities while you are behind the wheel. These are truly “teachable moments.” For example, you can:

- Point out tricky road signs, and ask what they mean.
- When a light turns yellow, talk about how you knew whether it was safe to stop, or safer to continue through the intersection.
- Ask them questions about the traffic behind you or beside you — make them aware that you have to pay attention to traffic all around you, not just in front of you.
- Show them the “two-second” rule, discussed in Chapter Ten.

Once you start doing this, you’ll be surprised at all of the wisdom you already have. You may also be surprised when it opens the door for your pupil to offer friendly criticism of your own habits! Since most of us have room for improvement, you will, hopefully, be able to accept with humor any good criticism they have.

Which Comes First, the Book or the Road?

You **both** will find it helpful to review this handbook, and any other materials you can find before actually letting the new driver get behind the wheel. People under age 18 must have either a learner permit or driver education before they can be road tested for a license. Both of these experiences involve “book learning” before getting on the road. This is a good principle for people of any age learning to drive.

One section of the handbook you could find helpful is the discussion in Chapter Three regarding things an examiner will be observing. These contain good cues for things you in your role as a teacher will want to observe.

Practice, Practice, Practice!

Nothing substitutes for actual experience on the road. You will want to have your first lessons concentrate on simply gaining control of the vehicle. Later lessons can build on this, getting increasingly more challenging. Here is one approach you might follow:

Phase One: Have the new driver practice controlling the car itself. Find someplace safe off the road (such as an empty parking lot) to practice basic skills:

- Backing the car
- Pulling forward
- Right turns
- Left turns
- Staying within an imaginary lane

Phase Two: Take the driver to a quiet residential area and let your new driver practice not only the above skills, but add:

- Intersections
- Keeping space around the car
- Easy lane changes

Phase Three: After you are satisfied that the basic controls are fairly well mastered, you are now ready to take the new driver into heavier traffic. Again, you will practice all of the above, and add:

- Hill parking
- Parallel parking
- U-turn

Phase Four: When you have confidence the new driver can handle greater challenges, you should guide him or her to practice:

- At night
- On multi-lane highways
- In various weather conditions

Two Tools to Consider

Driving Log: Safety researchers have found that the more supervised miles new drivers have before driving on their own, the fewer accidents they have. This seems like common sense, but is there a magic number of miles you should ride with your student? The University of Michigan’s Transportation Research Institute recommends 3,000 miles.

Each new driver is different, of course, and yours may not need 3,000 miles to be a confident, competent driver. Nevertheless, this could be your initial goal, which you could later modify. And to keep track of it, we suggest getting a simple spiral ring notebook to keep in the glove compartment. Make five headings:

OUR DRIVING LOG				
Date	Weather/ Time of Day	Starting Mileage	Ending Mileage	Comments

Contracts: As it gets closer to the time when your new driver will be applying for a driver license, some parents find it helpful to sit down and spell out just what they expect when they turn the car over to their child. For example, why wait until they have loaded up the car with laughing, distracting friends to develop a rule on how many people you feel okay about being in the car with them? It is up to you whether you would want to have this written and signed, or just discussed as a family, but areas you could consider covering in your agreement include:

- Where they may drive
- What hours of the day they may drive
- How many people can be in the car with them
- The condition the car should be returned (gas in tank, clean), and consequences if neglected
- Who pays for the car's gas and maintenance
- What they will contribute toward their insurance
- Responsibility for parking tickets
- Consequences for moving violations, including speeding

Helping Newcomers

If you have shouldered the task of teaching someone whose first language is not English, two areas in particular deserve special attention. First, make every effort to ensure that the driver studies the material on traffic signs and signals, and help him or her to “translate” these while you are out driving together. Second, put yourself in the role of an examiner, and let the driver practice following simple instructions in English (for example, “Turn left,” “Slow down,” etc.).

A Special Word to Parents

Remember — a driver license examiner spends less than 30 minutes driving with your child. Just by virtue of the fact that it is an examination, this is a special trip. Most applicants will perform at their very best level during the exam. Just because they perform at the passing level then does not necessarily mean they always use safe driving procedures.

The examiner can evaluate a driver's competence, but the responsibility of educating and teaching that child to drive rests with the parents. This means that it is wise to continue to monitor your child's driving performance even after they have been issued a driver license.

WHERE TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE?

You may renew your license at any driver license office. There is a driver license station serving each county. For those not listed, you may check our Website, www.state.tn.us/safety/, contact one of the stations below, or call: **(615) 741-3954 [TDD - Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (615) 532 -2281]**

<u>KEY DRIVER LICENSE STATIONS</u>			
COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE	HOURS*
Anderson	1976 Oak Ridge Highway, #14 Clinton, TN 37716	(865) 457-3958	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Blount	318 Home Avenue Maryville, TN 37801	(865) 981-2359	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Bradley	409 S. Ocoee Street Cleveland, TN 37311	(423) 478-0346	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Carter	419 West Elk Avenue, Suite 3 Elizabethton, TN 37643	(423) 547-5886	Tue, Wed, & Fri 8:00-6:30
Coffee	945 Jack Welch Drive Manchester, TN 37355	(931) 723-5066	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Cumberland	75 Birchwood Lane Crossville, TN 38555	(931) 484-1360	Wed thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Davidson	6604 Centennial Blvd Nashville, TN 37209	(615) 741-4560	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
	Tennessee Tower, 7 th Ave Entrance Nashville, TN 37243 (downtown)	(615) 253-2062 (<i>Express: no tests</i>)	Mon thru Fri 10:00-2:00
	624 Hart Lane Nashville, TN 37216	(615) 532-9780	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
	1601 Murfreesboro Road Nashville, TN 37217	(615) 741-2541 (<i>Express: no tests</i>)	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
Dickson	207 Bruce Drive Dickson, TN 37055	(615) 441-6218	Tue, Wed, & Fri 7:00-5:30
Dyer	361 James H. Rice Rd Dyersburg, TN 38024	(731) 286-8325	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
Gibson	1233 Manufacturer's Row Trenton, TN 38382	(731) 855-7826	Wed thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Greene	1209 Hal Henard Road Greeneville, TN 37743	(423) 638-3285	Tue, Wed, & Fri 8:00-6:30
Grundy	County Clerk's Office - Altamont	(615) 692-3622 (<i>Express: no tests or CDL</i>)	Mon thru Fri Regular hours
Hamblen	1901 State Street Morristown, TN 37814	(423) 587-7044	Tues thru Fri 8:00-6:30
Hamilton	6502 Bonny Oaks Drive Chattanooga, TN 37416	(423) 634-3127	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
	1235 East Third Street Chattanooga, TN 37404	(423) 634-6204 (<i>Express: No tests</i>)	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Henry	285 County Home Rd Paris, TN 38242	(731) 644-9992	Wed & Thu 7:30-6:00
Houston	County Clerk's Office- Courthouse Also open Sat, 8:00 - 12:00 noon	(931) 289-3141 (<i>Express: no tests or CDL</i>)	Regular hours of clerk's office
Jefferson	County Clerk's Office - Dandridge Also open Sat, 8:00 - 11:00 am	(865) 397-2935 (<i>Express: no tests or CDL</i>)	Regular hours of clerk's office

*On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, stations open one hour later in the morning (e.g., at 8:30 rather than at 7:30).

KEY DRIVER LICENSE STATIONS (continued)

COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE	HOURS*
Knox	7320 Region Lane Knoxville, TN 37914	(865) 594-6399	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
	Parkway Bus. Center, Suite 2170 Knoxville, TN 37922	(865) 966-4350	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Also in Knox Co.	Three county clerk offices: Halls, Knoxville Center, and Downtown	(865) 215-2385 (Express: no tests or CDL)	Regular hours of clerk's office
Lake	County Clerk's Office - Tiptonville Also Sat, 8:00 - 12:00 noon	(731) 253-7582 (Express: no tests or CDL)	Regular hours of clerk's office
Lawrence	235 East Gaines Street Lawrenceburg, TN 38464	(931) 766-1411 *Except 3 rd and 4 th Thursday	Mon, Wed, *Thu, & Fri 8:30 – 5:00
Lincoln	505 N. Bellview Ave Fayetteville, TN 37334	(931) 438-1915 *Except 5 th Friday	Mon & Fri* 8:30-5:00
Madison	100 Benchmark Circle Jackson, TN 38301	(731) 423-6622	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Maury	6226 Cayce Lane Columbia, TN 38401	(931) 380-2548	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
McMinn	1865 Highway 30-E Athens, TN 37303	(423) 744-2812	Tue, Wed, & Fri 7:30-6:00
McNairy	112 Process Street Adamsville, TN 38310	(731) 632-0311	Wed & Fri 7:30-6:00
Montgomery	1935 Madison Ave. Clarksville, TN 37043	(931) 648-5596	Tues thru Fri 7:00-5:30
Putnam	4600 S. Jefferson Ave. Cookeville, TN 38506	(931) 528-5669	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Roane	1064 N. Gateway Ave - Suite 1 Rockwood, TN 37854	(865) 354-1257	Tues thru Fri 7:30-6:00
Rutherford	1035 Samsonite Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129	(615) 898-8037	Tues thru Fri 7:00-5:30
Sevier	980 Eastgate Road Sevierville, TN 37862	(865) 429-7016	Tues thru Fri* 7:30-6:00
Shelby	6340 Summer Avenue Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 543-7920	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
	3200 E. Shelby Drive Memphis, TN 38118	(901) 543-7920	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
	3516 Park Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 543-7920 (Express: No tests)	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
	5019 W. Union Road Millington, TN 38053	(901) 872-0800	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
Sullivan	3769 Highway 11-W Blountville, TN 37617	(423) 279-3250	Tues thru Fri 8:00-6:30
Sumner	100 Shute Lane Hendersonville, TN 37075	(615) 824-8437	Mon thru Fri 8:30-5:00
Warren	167 Cadillac Lane McMinnville, TN 37110	(931) 668-9073	Tue, Wed, & Fri 7:30-6:00
Washington	707 John Exum Parkway Johnson City, TN 37601	(423) 926-4911	Tues thru Fri 8:00-6:30
Williamson	718 Boyd Mill Pike Franklin, TN 37064	(615) 790-5515	Tues thru Fri 7:00-5:30
Wilson	725 Elkins Drive Lebanon, TN 37087	(615) 443-2757	Mon, Wed.*, Friday 8:30 - 5:00

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